

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 - 12 (cancelled).

13. (new) A nonwoven production machine including alternate path and pathways for selected web travel and processing comprising:

a spun bond tower for depositing filaments as a web on an upper run of a first conveyor extending a first direction,

a first means for forwarding said web from said first conveyor to a first water jet consolidation unit along a path having a second direction other than said first direction, a second conveyor for forwarding the web leaving the first consolidation unit to a second waterjet consolidation unit, said web leaving said second waterjet consolidation unit being directed to said application unit for final processing,

a calender located downstream of said first means in said first direction for producing a calendered web that

has bypassed said first waterjet consolidation unit, said second waterjet consolidation unit being located downstream of said calender in said first direction, and

a deflection means for deflecting said calendered web in a first pathway directly to said application unit or in a second pathway, different from said first pathway, to said second waterjet consolidation unit with said web then being directed from said second waterjet consolidation unit to said application unit, both pathways being possible with the production machine,

whereby processing of said web produced by a single feed to said spun bond tower may be selected to form nonwoven of different grades corresponding with the selected processing.

14. (new) The machine of claim 13, further including a third conveyor for receiving web directly from said deflection means or from said second waterjet consolidation unit for conveyance to said application unit.

15. (new) The machine of claim 14, further including expressing means for providing a vacuum to withdraw water from said web received on said third conveyor.

16. (new) The machine of claim 14, wherein said first means comprises a drum for forwarding web from said first conveyor and for cooperating with injectors impinging water on the web as it is forwarded by the drum to provide said first waterjet consolidation unit.

17. (new) The machine of claim 16, wherein said drum also includes internal vacuum means to withdraw impinging water passing through the web.

18. (new) The machine of claim 14, wherein said deflection means comprises a roll arranged to have said calendered web pass over or under the roll as the web is deflected along said first or second pathway.

19. (new) The machine of claim 14, wherein said application unit includes a treating station for applying a surfactant or a binder to the web, a drying station and a wind-up station.

20. (new) A nonwoven production machine having alternate path and pathways along which a spun bond web may be directed for different processing by one or more of a first waterjet consolidation unit, a second waterjet

consolidation unit or a calender and then to an application unit for final processing whereby the spun bond web from a single feed to the spun bond tower may be formed into nonwoven of different grades comprising:

a spun bond tower for depositing filaments forming a web on an upper run of a first conveyor extending a first direction,

a first means for forwarding said web from said first conveyor to said first water jet consolidation unit along a path having a second direction other than said first direction, a second conveyor for forwarding the web from said first consolidation unit to said second consolidation unit, said web leaving said second waterjet consolidation unit being directed to said application unit for final processing,

said calender being located downstream of said first means in said first direction for producing a calendered web that has bypassed said first waterjet consolidation unit,

said second waterjet consolidation unit being located downstream of said calender in said first direction,

a deflection means for deflecting said calendered web from said calender along either:

a first pathway bypassing said second waterjet consolidation unit with said calendered web being directed directly to said application unit for final processing, or

a second pathway, different from said first pathway, to said second waterjet consolidation unit with said web then being directed from said second waterjet consolidation unit to said application unit for final processing, both pathways being possible with said production machine,

whereby processing of said web produced by a single feed to said spun bond tower may be selected to form nonwoven of different grades corresponding with the selected processing.

21. (new) The machine of claim 20, further including a third conveyor for receiving web directly from said deflection means or from said second waterjet consolidation unit for conveyance to said application unit.

22. (new) The machine of claim 21, further including expressing means for providing a vacuum to withdraw water from said web received on said third conveyor.

23. (new) The machine of claim 21, wherein said first means comprises a drum for forwarding web from said first

conveyor and for cooperating with injectors impinging water on the web as it is forwarded by the drum to provide said first waterjet consolidation unit.

24. (new) The machine of claim 23, wherein said drum also includes internal vacuum means to withdraw impinging water passing through the web.

25. (new) The machine of claim 21, wherein said deflection means comprises a roll arranged to have said calendered web pass over or under the roll as the web is deflected along said first or second pathway.

26. (new) The machine of claim 21, wherein said application unit includes a treating station for applying a surfactant or a binder to the web, a drying station and a wind-up station.